

In the Claims

Please delete claim 1.

Please insert the following new claims.

--23. An instrument for monitoring a nucleic acid amplification reaction comprising: a thermal cycler having a support adapted for accommodating one or more nucleic acid amplification reaction volumes; and an optical system adapted for being optically coupled to one or more nucleic acid amplification reaction volumes accommodated by the support.

24. The instrument of Claim 23 wherein the optical systems comprises a fluorometer.

25. The instrument of Claim 23 wherein the optical systems comprises one or more fiber optic leads for optically coupling the optical system and the one or more nucleic acid amplification reaction volumes accommodated by the support.

26. The instrument of Claim 25 wherein the one or more fiber optic leads is not in physical contact with the one or more nucleic acid amplification reaction volumes accommodated by the support.

27. The instrument of Claim 23 further comprising one or more reaction vessels for containing the one or more nucleic acid amplification reaction volumes accommodated by the support.